

Message Text

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11
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 211432Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3157
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, IS
SUBJECT: THE KOENIG REPORT: VIEWS OF PRIME MINISTER'S
ADVISER ON ARAB AFFAIRS

REF: (A) TEL AVIV 6215 AND (B) TEL AVIV 6288

1. ARAB LOCAL COUNCIL HEADS IN GALILEE WILL MEET SEPTEMBER 22 TO PLAN CONCERTED PROTEST AGAINST NORTHERN DISTRICT COMMISSIONER (MINISTRY OF INTERIOR) ISRAEL KOENIG, CHIEF AUTHOR OF THE NOW INFAMOUS "KOENIG REPORT." THE EXPECTED OUTCOME OF THEIR MEETING, ACCORDING TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S ADVISER ON ARAB AFFAIRS, SHMUEL TOLEDANO, IS AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT UNLESS KOENIG IS REMOVED FROM HIS JOB BY SEPTEMBER 29, ALL ARAB LOCAL COUNCILS WILL STAGE A TWO-HOUR PROTEST STRIKE. IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, TOLEDANO TOLD US, THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT REMOVE KOENIG. HE ADDED THAT THE TWO-HOUR STRIKE "WILL NOT BE ANYTHING LIKE WHAT HAPPENED IN MARCH," WHEN VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS AND DEATHS OCCURRED IN CONNECTION WITH "LAND DAY".

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2. TOLEDANO REFERRED TO A SEPTEMBER 21 HAARETZ ARTICLE ON

THE NEWEST DEVELOPMENT IN THE KOENIG AFFAIR, WHICH IS A RE-ACTION BY ISRAELI JEWS OF ORIENTAL ORIGIN. (THE ARTICLE REPORTS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEETINGS OF CIVIL SERVANTS, MILITARY OFFICERS, MINISTERS, MEMBERS OF KNESSET, ETC. - ALL OF SEPHARDIC BACKGROUND. THE ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS A LETTER FROM MK KATSAV TO THE PRIME MINISTER, ASKING HIM TO TAKE A PUBLIC POSITION AGAINST KOENIG, WHOSE REPORT "SHRUGGED OFF" THE POSITIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ORIENTAL JEWS AND MANY ISRAELI ARABS AS WELL). TOLEDANO TOLD US HE BELIEVES THAT IN RESPONSE TO KOENIG'S "INSULTING" RECOMMENDATION THAT THOSE ISRAELIS "WITH ARAB MENTALITY" BE REPLACED IN THEIR JOBS, A NUMBER OF HIGH-LEVEL SEPHARDIC ISRAELIS WILL SOON CALL FOR A PUBLIC APOLOGY FROM KOENIG, FAILING WHICH, THEY WILL JOIN IN CALLING FOR HIS DISMISSAL.

3. THE KOENIG REPORT HAS CAUSED GREAT HARM, TOLEDANO SAID, BUT IT WILL NOT MATERIALLY DAMAGE EXISTING ALIGNMENT SUPPORT AMONG ARAB VOTERS IN NEXT YEAR'S ELECTION. BETWEEN NOW AND THEN, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO IMPLEMENT POSITIVE MEASURES IN THE ARAB SECTOR, NOTABLY IN THE AREAS OF HOUSING, SCHOOLS, AND TOWN PLANNING.

4. AIRGRAM FOLLOWS.
TOON

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